LISA C. McCLAIN

10th District, Michigan

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR

ASSISTANT WHIP



Congress of the United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515 July 19, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden President of the United States The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

As we write to you, gas prices remain at historically high levels with little sign of immediate relief. Your Administration chose to withdraw oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve in an attempt to alleviate the pain at the pump caused by these prices. However, there have been troubling reports in recent weeks that your Administration has sold over one million barrels from this reserve to the People's Republic of China to benefit your family's business interests.

As I'm sure you know, the Chinese Communist Party is America's greatest geopolitical adversary. They are prolific human rights abusers who wish to undermine free countries around the world, including the United States. While it would be foolish to auction off scarce resources during a shortage to any foreign country, strengthening the energy security of our greatest adversary serves no benefit to our own national interests and in fact weakens our national security. The Strategic Petroleum Reserve, as its name suggests, requires that withdrawals strategically support American energy security, rather than be gifts to our enemies.

As Members of Congress, we are gravely concerned to hear that your scandal-laden son, Hunter Biden, was a significant investor in Sinopec, the Chinese company that is receiving millions of barrels of our emergency oil supply. As the President of the United States, you swore an oath to defend the U.S. Constitution. By using the powers of the presidency to put your family's business interests before those of hardworking Americans who cannot afford to fill their tanks, you are abdicating your duty to the American people in a time of crisis.

As Representatives of the American people, we hear from our constituents everyday about the burden of these high prices and their concern with your Administration emboldening a hostile authoritarian power through nepotism. That is why we demand that you justify this release to the American people and convince them that your Administration is putting our country first.

WASHINGTON OFFICE 218 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON, DC 20515 PHONE: (202) 225-2106

DISTRICT OFFICE 6303 26 MILE ROAD SUITE 110 WASHINGTON, MI 48094 PHONE: (586) 697-9300 We are demanding answers to the following questions no later than September 15th, 2022:

- 1. How does releasing oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to China lower gas prices and energy costs in the United States?
- 2. Will you personally be conducting a press conference before the American people to explain all aspects of this transaction? If not, why not?
- 3. Why were other corporations without ties to your family or the Chinese Communist Party not chosen over Sinopec for this release?
- 4. What was the extent of Hunter Biden's financial investment in Sinopec at the time the decision to send one million barrels of American emergency oil was made?
- 5. Who in your administration suggested that Sinopec be the beneficiary of the sale?
- 6. How do you plan to begin to replenish the Strategic Petroleum Reserve your administration has been utilizing for the past several months?

Considering this crisis could have been averted had your Administration not pledged to undertake an "incredible transition" away from oil and gas, the burden is on you—not fossil fuel companies or your political opponents—to fix this crisis. Rest assured, if you do not explain all details of this sale, and justify it to the American people, this Congress will hold you accountable should you continue to misuse our emergency oil supply and use the office of the presidency for personal benefit.

With great concern,

Lisa C. McClain

Member of Congress

W. Gregory Steube

Member of Congress

Yvette Herrell
Member of Congress

Andy Biggs

Member of Congress

Dlenn Swithmun
Glenn Grothman

Glenn Grothman Member of Congress

Mayra Flores

Member of Congress

Ben Cline

Member of Congress

Vicky Hartzler

Vicky Hartzler

Vicky Hartzler Member of Congress

Bob Good

Member of Congress